

Jedediah Higgins House  
Higgins Hollow Road  
Truro  
Barnstable County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-748

HABS  
MASS,  
1-TRU,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JEDEDIAH HIGGINS HOUSE

HABS No. MA-748

Location: Higgins Hollow Road, Truro.  
Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner: Miss Evalyn Higgins.  
Truro, Massachusetts.

Present Use: Summer residence.

Significance: This is a traditional "one-and-a-half-story" Cape Cod "double-house" of the early nineteenth century. It is classified a historic structure in the Cape Cod National Seashore.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1830.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original plans of construction: None known to exist.
4. Original and subsequent owners:

Jedediah Higgins, born 1784, died 1865, gave it to his son, Joseph, born 1822, died 1905, who gave it to his son Jedediah, father of present owner, Miss Evalyn Higgins.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

This is a good example of very early 19th century architecture that has been little altered and is now in the area of the Cape Cod National Seashore.

1. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 34' x 29'.
2. Foundations: Brick covered with cement.

3. Wall construction: The board walls are covered on the front and back with clapboards. The end walls are covered with shingles. Structure of post and beam shows some "gun stock" posts.
4. Porches and stoops: The doors have modern brick stoops.
5. Chimneys: There is one modern brick chimney in the center of the roof at the ridge.
6. Openings, doors: The center front door on the south side of the house is a late 19th century one with many lights. The other door is modern.
7. Windows and shutters: Windows are 19th century replacements; two-light-over two-light double hung sash.  
  
Shutters: Wooden exterior blinds painted green.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape and covering: Gable roof has a ridge board and planks running perpendicular to the ridge board. The shingles are black asphalt.
  - b. Cornice: Simple box wooden cornice.
9. Floor plans:
  - a. First floor: This double-house has an ell to the northeast of the main house. The round brick cellar is reached from the east exterior of the house. The first floor has a front center hall and stairway flanked on its southeast and southwest sides by a pair of main rooms. The old kitchen, now the dining room, is to the rear-north of the house, where it takes the major space and is flanked on its east and west sides each by two small rooms.
  - b. Second floor: The second floor at one time had one large east bedroom with a stove. This was removed and there are now five modern bedrooms and a bathroom.
10. Flooring: Random width planks from 9" to 20".
11. Stairways: Main front stairway going from center south front door to second floor.
12. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings are plastered. There is painted wooden wainscoting in the east room, west room and kitchen. The panels range up to 20" in width. The fireplace walls in the old kitchen and the east and west rooms are paneled. All wood is painted.

13. Trim:
  - a. Old kitchen: Simple painted wooden trim, and exposed gun stock posts.
  - b. Front rooms of the main house: Mitred corners and molding upon molding.
14. Hardware: Iron lift latches.
15. Lighting: Modern electric lamps.
16. Heating: Central heatins. Fireplace in the old kitchen.
17. Orientation: The house faces south.
18. Outbuildings: One modern garage to the southwest of the house.
19. Walks and drives: There is a sand drive to the south of the house.
20. Landscaping: The house is surrounded by residential lawns and plantings.

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